

£1.20

FARTHING WOOD FRIENDS

74

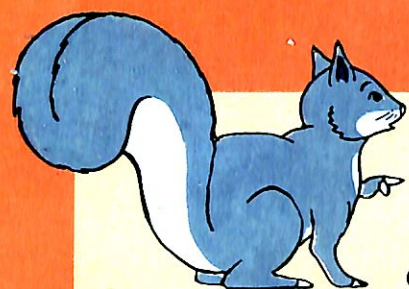
Based on the series shown on **B** **B** **C** TV.

FREE
Domino
game



NATURE FUN AND LEARN SERIES





Squirrel says,

*Hello Friends,
here's how to play
your domino game*

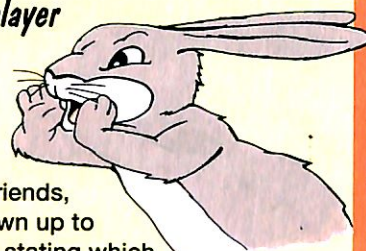
Once you've received your second set of dominoes in issue 75, you can play Farthing Wood dominoes!

Cut out all 28 dominoes. Put them face down and shuffle them. Then each player picks out her dominoes. If there are two players, take seven each, three players get six, four or five players get five. Don't let the other players see your dominoes!

The player with the double Fox goes first. If no-one's got it, each player in turn takes a domino from the stock until the double Fox is found.

Once the double Fox is down, the second player adds a domino, which must have a Fox at one end of it. Take it in turns to add a domino to either end of the line, always matching picture to picture. If you can't go, knock on the table and take another domino from the stock (until the stock runs out).

*The winner is the first player
to get rid of all
their dominoes.*



If you haven't got all your copies of Farthing Wood Friends, don't panic! Just ask a grown up to write to the address below stating which parts you want us to send you and enclosing the appropriate payment. Each part costs £1.20 except part 1, which only costs 60p. Postage and packing are free.

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CUSTOMER ENQUIRIES 01424 755755
(For readers in the UK and Republic of Ireland)

Editorial and distribution offices
Eagle Moss Publications Ltd
7 Cromwell Road, London SW7 2HR
Trade enquiries: 0171 581 1371
Editor: Sarah Pendlebury
© Eagle Moss Publications Ltd 1994
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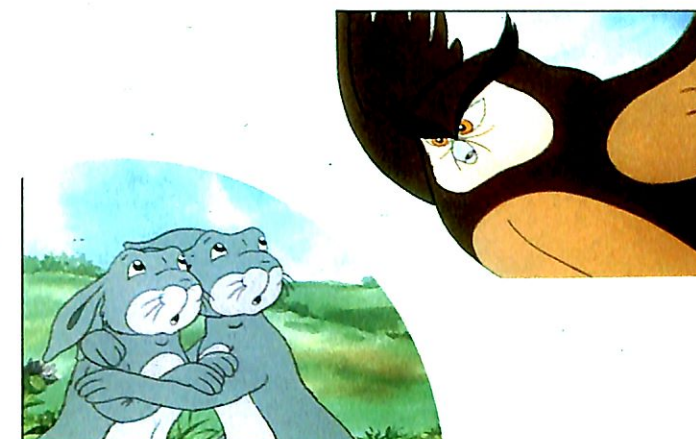
CREDITS

Photographs: Heather Angel AA2(tl), AA4(bl); Ardea (London) Ltd
(Ake Lindau) AA2(b); Britstock IFA (Schmidbauer) AA1; Bruce Coleman Ltd
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AA2(tr); P Llewelyn-Davies/Telemagination SW1, domino game; NHPA
(A P Barnes) FF2(l); OSF Ltd (G I Bernard) AA3, (R Cousins) FF2(r).
Illustrations: Dale E Evans DN1-3, Cll; Christyan Fox PIO1-4; Atholl
McDonald HTD1-2; J Martin/The Garden Studio AA4; John Morris/Wildlife
Art Agency SW1-3; Clive Spong/Linden Artists FC, AA1, FF2.
Key: AA = All About ...; Cll = Colour it in; DN = Discovering Nature;
FF = Fascinating Facts; HTD = How to Draw; PIO = Puzzle it out;
SW = Secret World.

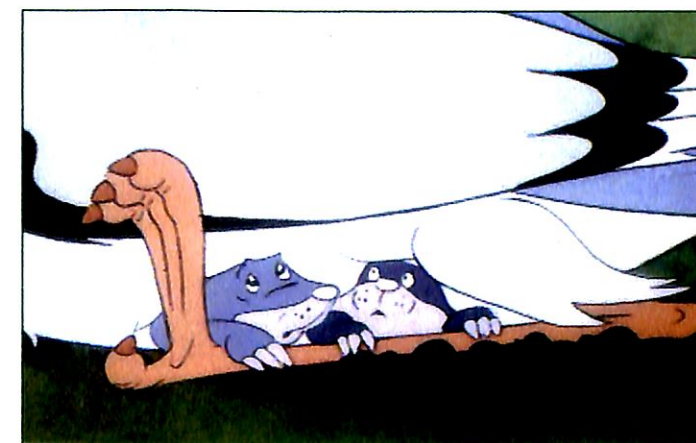
Colour origination by Colourscan Overseas Pte Ltd
Printed by Southerprint



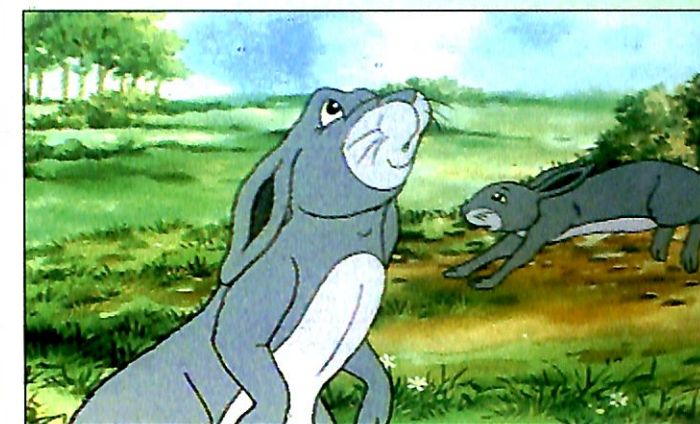
Hare had overheard Scarface planning an attack on the Farthing Wood animals. Ranger, too, had warned Friendly of the impending battle.



"Stop rushing about and listen to me," said Owl. "You've got to make sure you're somewhere safe. Scarface will seek out your usual hiding places and flush you out!" she explained. The Rabbits hid in an old earth.



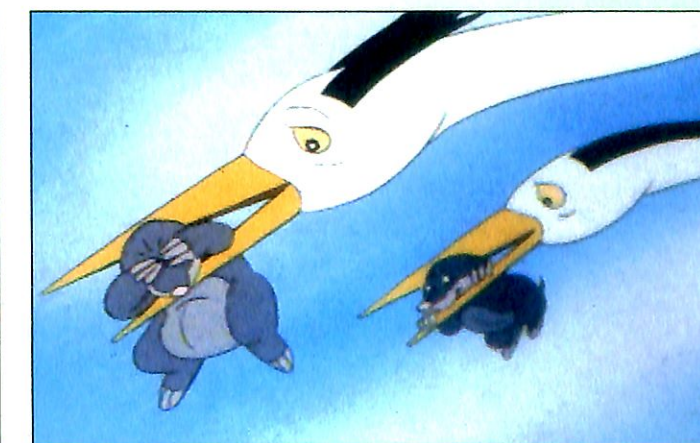
Whistler had gone to find Mateless and Mossy. He crash-landed on top of them and told them the news. "Everyone's gathering at Fox's earth," he said.



As soon as she heard the news, Mrs Rabbit started to panic. "What's wrong with mum?" asked one of her children. "She's panicking," said the other. "That's all right then," said the first.



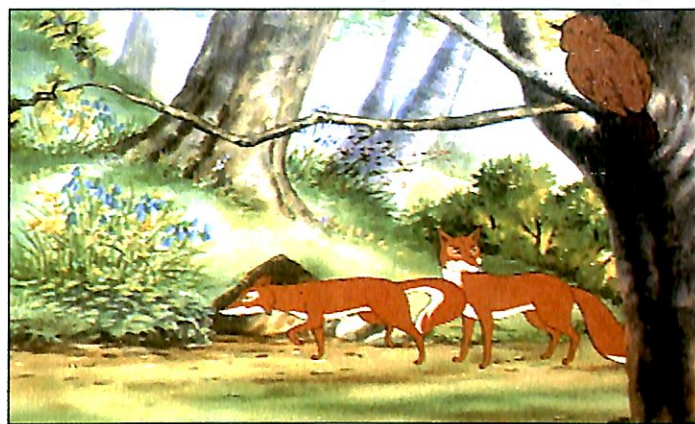
Measly had escaped from his 'prison'. "Weasel! Where are you?" he shouted. Weasel was hiding in a log. She put her foot out, tripped him up and dragged him inside. Then she gave Measly a big hug. "So you do care!" he grinned.



"Fox's earth?" replied Mossy, "But that's miles away. "Not as the heron flies," replied Whistler. He and Speedy picked up the two moles in their beaks and flew to where the others were gathered.



When everyone had assembled, Fox spoke. "There's only one hope for you all, and that's me. Even I may not be able to fend off a whole pack of foxes. But I promise, I will defend you to the last!" Everyone cheered.



The animals went down into Fox's earth to hide. "If only we had Bold with us ..." sighed Vixen.



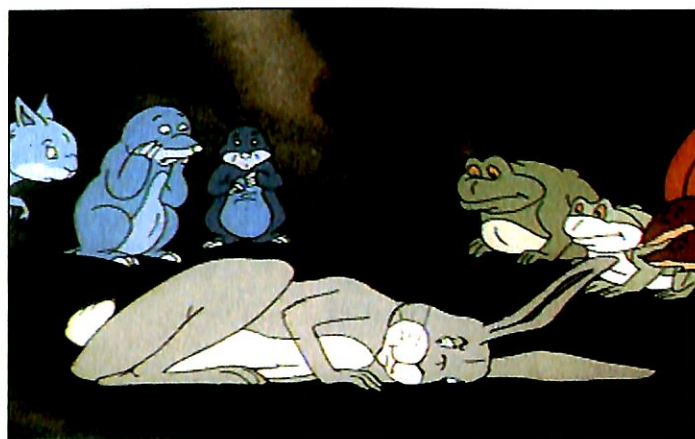
"I just don't like to push myself forward, that's all," replied Ranger. "But you're my son," said Scarface. "Come to the front." Reluctantly, Ranger went to stand by his father.



Fox looked out from their hiding place, "So much for your precious Ranger's promises, my girl." "What do you mean?" asked Charmer. "He's right outside, with his father," snarled Fox.



The blue foxes had gathered together to carry out their search. They looked in several hidey-holes and found nothing. "Somebody must have warned them!" snarled Scarface. He decided to try Fox's earth.



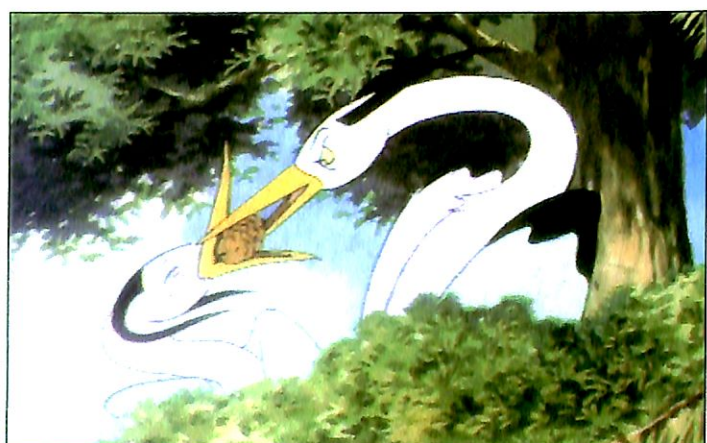
Meanwhile, the animals were getting more and more scared inside Fox's earth. Hare held his ear to the ground. "I can hear footsteps," he said, "and they're getting nearer."



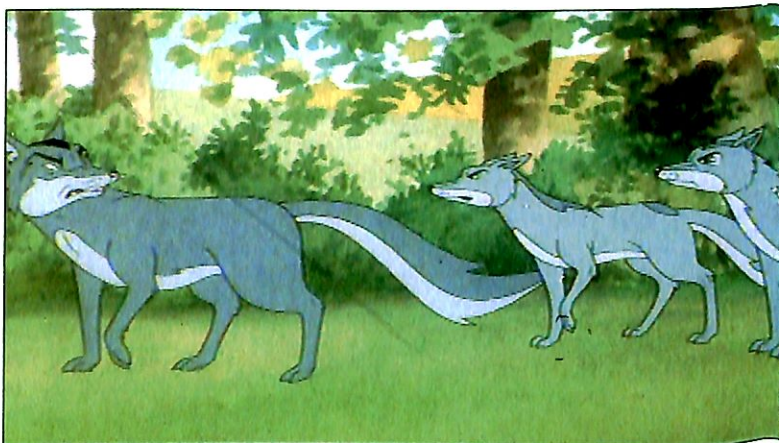
"He can't mean to fight," said Charmer, in disbelief. "He'll fight. Blood is thicker than water!" replied Fox. Just then, Ranger stuck his head inside the tunnel, "Charmer, are you there?" he whispered.



"Let me talk to him," said Charmer. "Do you want to give us all away?" snapped Fox. "Get back outside, Ranger, before I kill you."



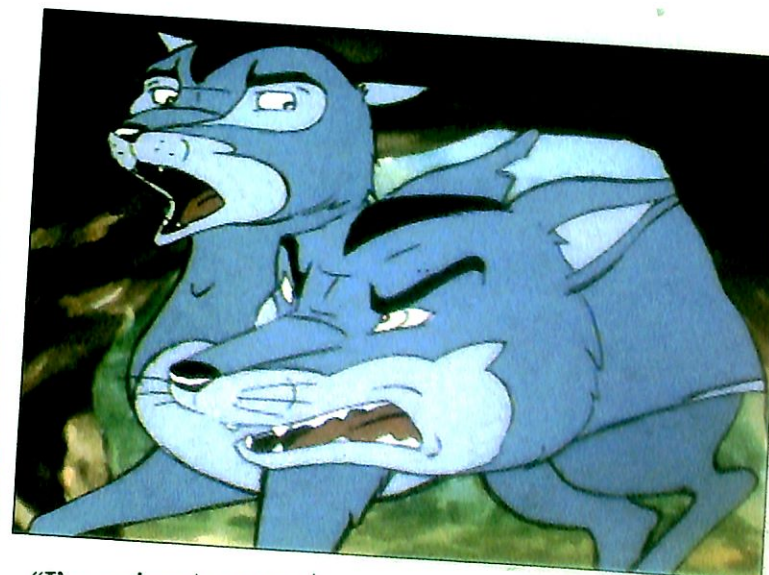
"This is all very exciting," said Speedy, from her treetop perch. "Don't you think it's exciting, dear?" "Gag her!" Owl ordered. Whistler picked up a pine cone and stuffed it in Speedy's mouth to silence her.



As the blue foxes marched on, Scarface realized that Ranger was skulking at the back. "Why so far behind, Ranger?" he asked. "Perhaps you do have a yellow streak after all." The other foxes laughed.



"I guess it looks bad to you, but I offered to check the earth out," said Ranger. "I bet you did!" replied Fox, "you want the credit for finding us." "You've got me all wrong," pleaded Ranger.



"I'm going to report back that the earth's deserted." But it was too late. Scarface stuck his head into the earth. "The game's up, my friend," he said, "you're completely surrounded."

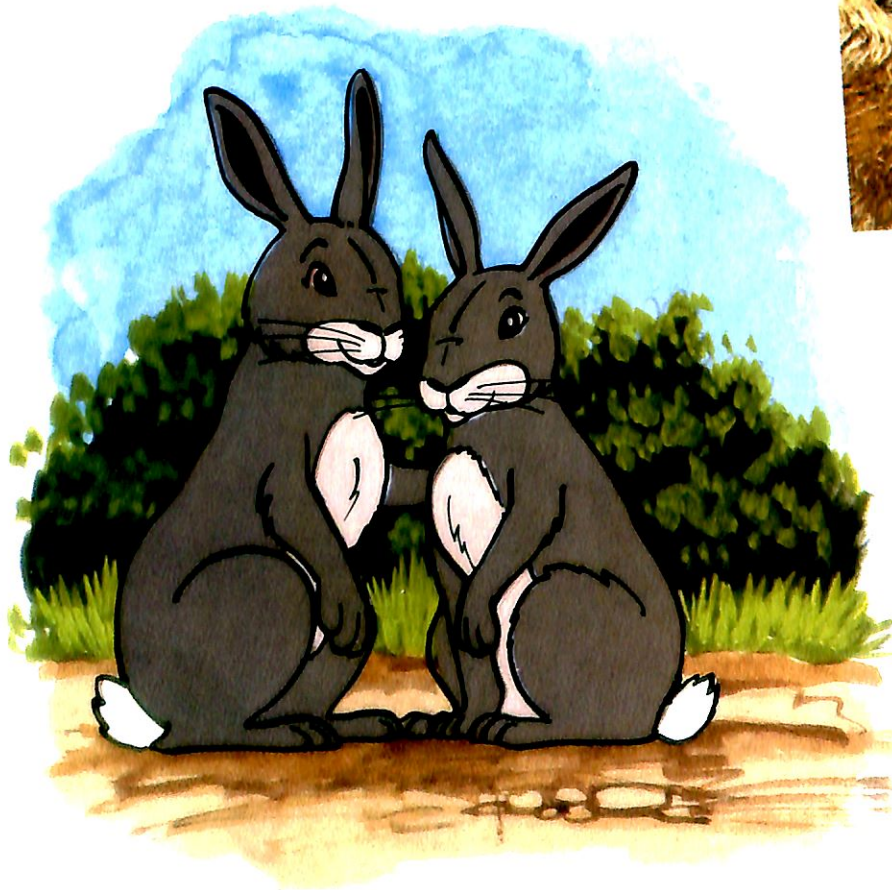
Next week: The duel.

All About...

RABBITS

“Hello there. We’re Mr and Mrs Rabbit, and we thought you might like to hear more about our life on the hillsides, in the dunes, hedgerow banks and grassy fields all over the British Isles. In some places, there are so many of us you might even see us grazing in broad daylight at the edge of the road as you drive by. But did you know that we originally came from Spain and Portugal, and weren’t introduced into Britain until the 1100s?”

At first, we were kept in warrens enclosed by walls. But being such skilled diggers, some of our ancestors tunnelled their way out and started up their own warrens in the wild. Being such fast breeders, we soon spread across the country. By the early 1950s, there were about 60 million of us in Britain alone. Then we were nearly wiped out when we caught a disease called myxomatosis.”



Be a Nature Detective

PAW CLUES

Many of us know what rabbit droppings look like (a bit like chocolate-covered raisins!) but have you ever seen the track of a hopping rabbit? Keep an eye out in snow, soft mud or damp sand. You can see from this photograph how the rabbit places its front paws (3.5cm long) one in front of the other and the larger back paws (6cm long) side by side. Can you work out which way the rabbit was going?



Like squirrels and rats, we have two large front teeth on our top jaw, called incisors, which keep growing. We wear down the tips of them cutting plant stems and leaves against the bottom incisors. If I lost just one of these front teeth, I would not be able to cut myself enough food to survive and, since we rabbits cannot re-grow teeth, I would eventually die of starvation.

Like deer, I have an extra, stomach-like bag, where bacteria help to break down the coarse plants that I eat so that I can get all the goodness out of them.



Each community of rabbits has its own territory. The bucks mark out the boundaries with urine and droppings, often at a raised piece of ground, like an anthill. They also leave scent markers, by rubbing the ground or plant stems with their chin, which contains special scent glands. Sometimes, a chief buck's chin becomes bare from all his 'chinning' messages.

IT'S Amazing!

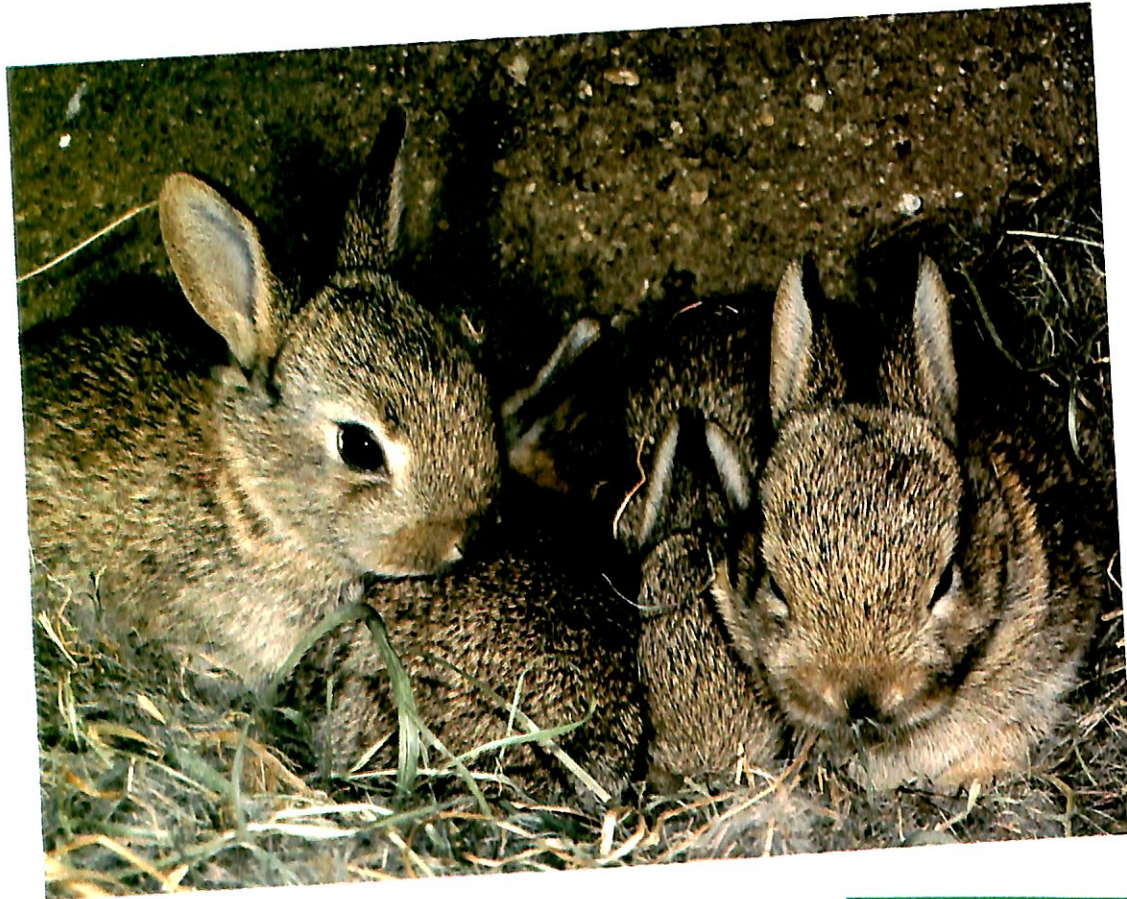
The world's smallest rabbit, the Pygmy, is just 25cm long.

All About...

Breeding

“We does often give birth to our first litter of young as early as January. When a buck and doe are courting they sometimes sit side by side, or

facing each other, and lick their partner's forehead, ears and neck. At other times, the buck gives a frisky display to get the doe in the mood for mating.”



At first, the buck trails round after the doe, stopping to feed from time to time. Then he chases round her, with his tail raised up against his back so that its white underside is very noticeable. He may also squirt her with urine as he gets close. Sometimes, he actually leaps right over her. The doe doesn't seem to take much notice but his courtship is getting her ready for mating, which will take place later in the safety of the burrow.

The young are born inside the burrow. We does feed them with our milk, once a day, until they are about three weeks old. Every time we leave, we use earth to close up the entrance to the tunnel leading to their nest. Even so, foxes and badgers sometimes manage to find them. Perhaps they can hear the young, who call noisily when we does are away feeding.



Weasel's Easel

Places that have been scent marked by rabbits keep their smell for months or even years. In some areas, where whole communities had been killed off by myxomatosis, a new group later moved into the warren and used exactly the same marking spots as the original rabbits.

CONSERVATION

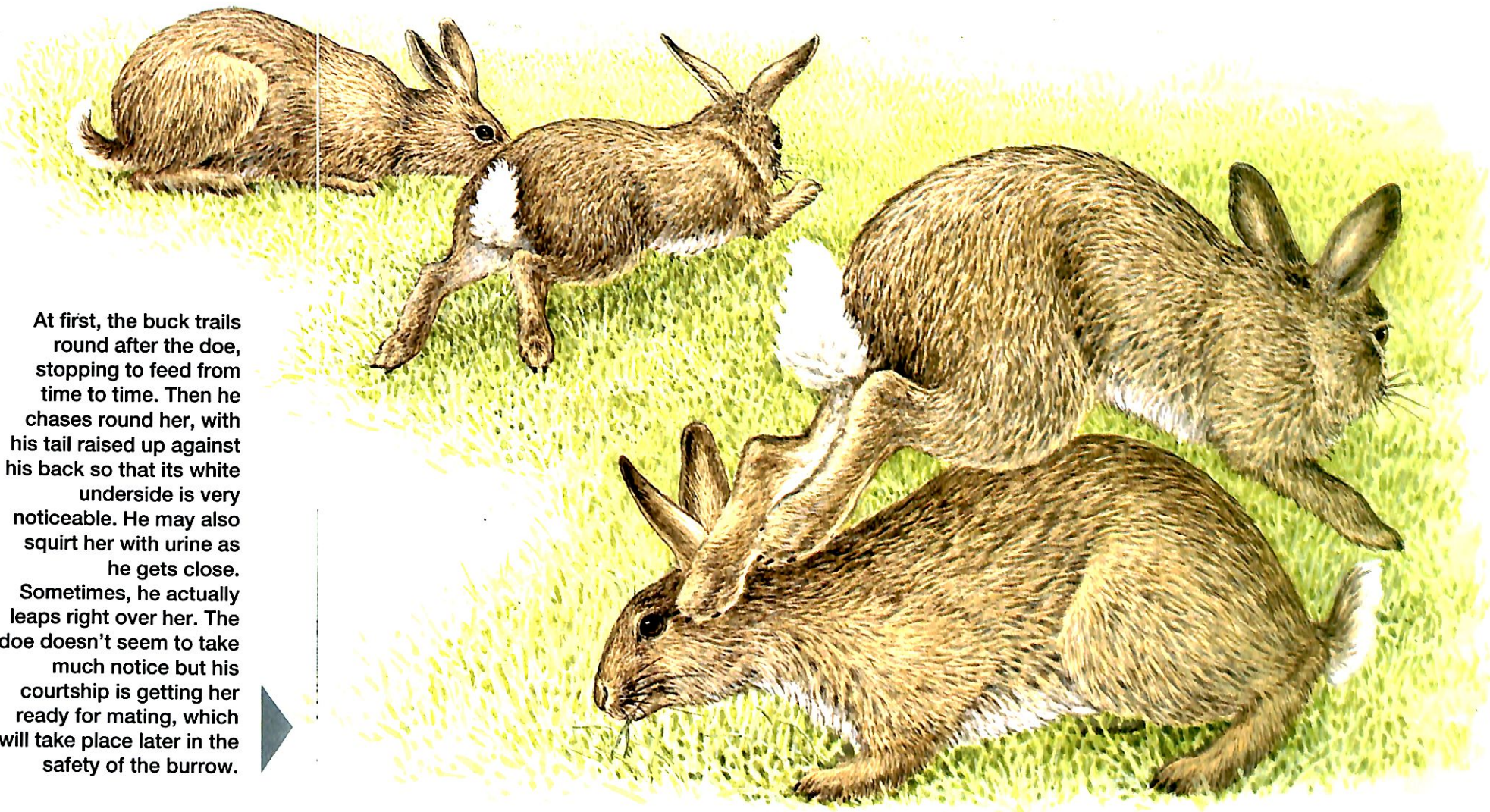
WATCH

MAN INTERFERES

Although each doe can give birth to 30 or more young in the breeding season, if food is short, or if the group she belongs to is overcrowded, she can stop the embryos developing inside her body. In this way, rabbits control their own population.

When a French landowner introduced the myxomatosis virus on to his estate to cut down the number of rabbits, it had a disastrous effect. The virus, which is spread from one rabbit to another by fleas, and which slowly kills off all the rabbits who become infected, spread to England and within a few years nine out of every 10 rabbits had died.

It wasn't just bad news for the rabbit communities: predators like stoats, buzzards and owls, that depend on rabbits for a large part of their diet, couldn't find enough other foods and many died. The grassy downland habitat, where low-growing plants (like vetches and trefoils) had

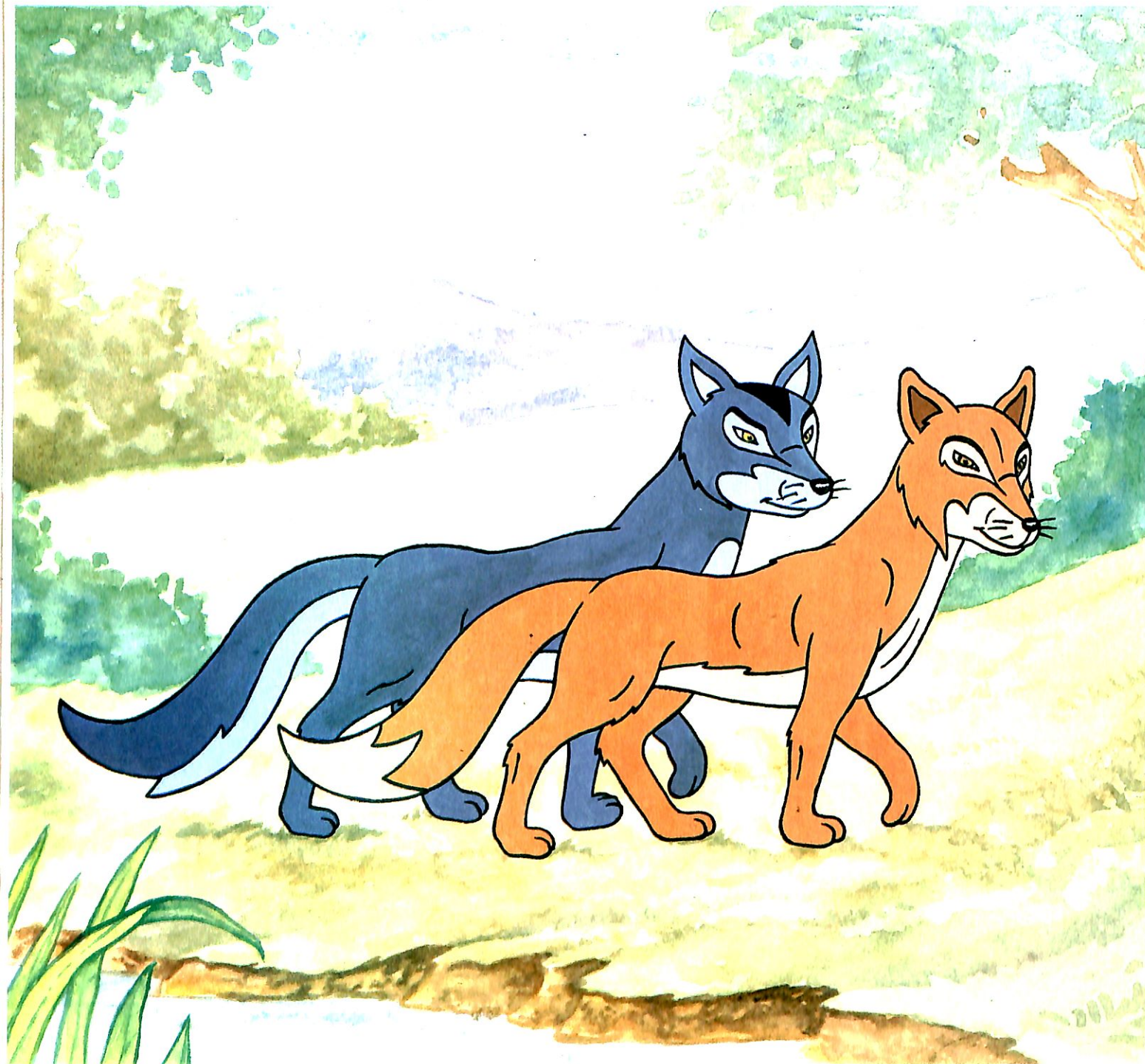


The Adonis blue feeds on low-growing plants like Horseshoe vetch.



thrived because the rabbits kept the grasses short, soon changed. Taller, coarser grasses took hold, shading out the low-growing plants on which butterflies such as the Adonis and Chalk-hill blues fed and laid their eggs. The butterflies, too, became increasingly rare. Birds, like wheatears and nightjars, that nest on barish ground, lost their nesting sites.

Luckily, some rabbits became immune to the virus and their numbers have now recovered. This means there is a regular supply of food for their predators once again, and short grasses for the creatures that live there.



Charmer & Ranger

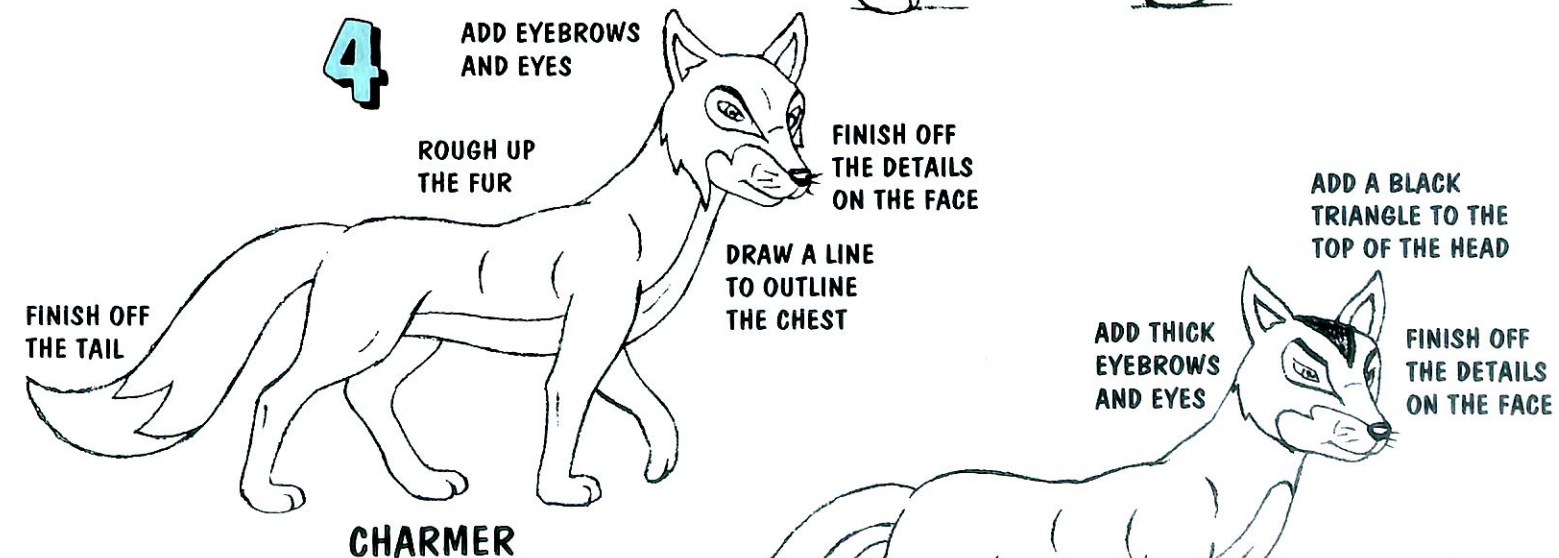
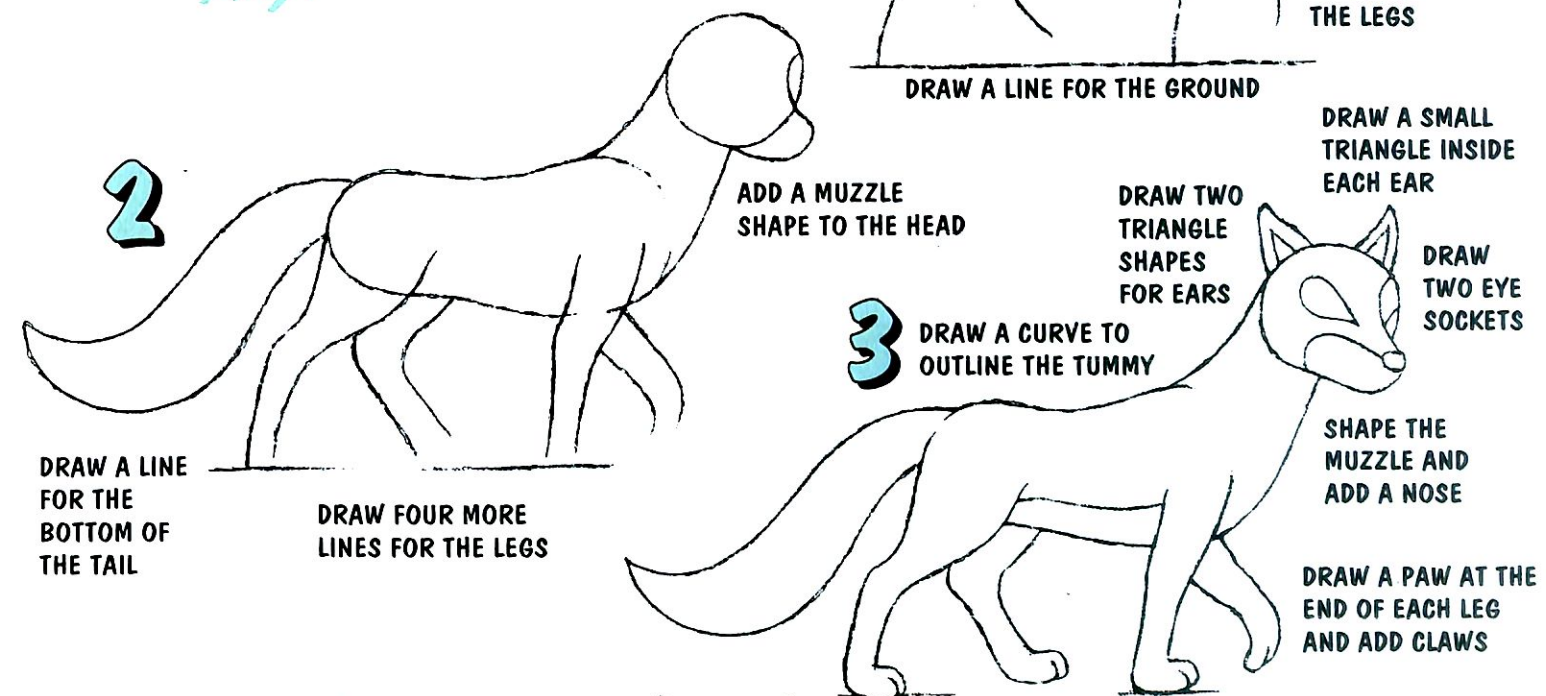
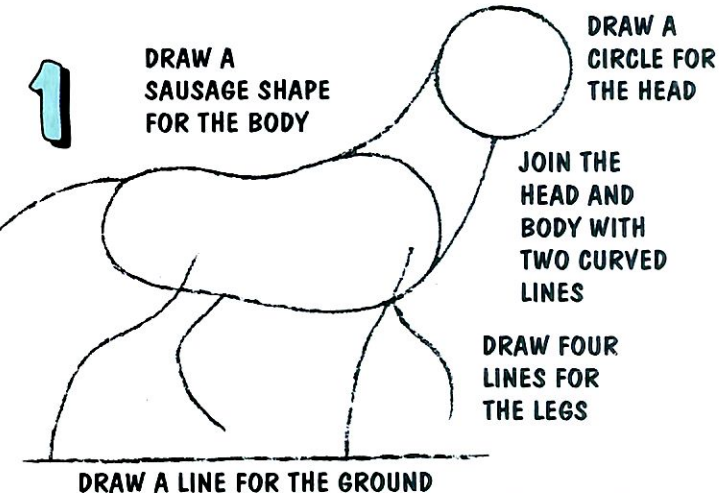
These two young foxes have a very big problem – they want to be mates, but their fathers hate each other and don't want their cubs mixing. Will Charmer and Ranger's love for each other be strong enough to end the feud between the blue and red fox families?



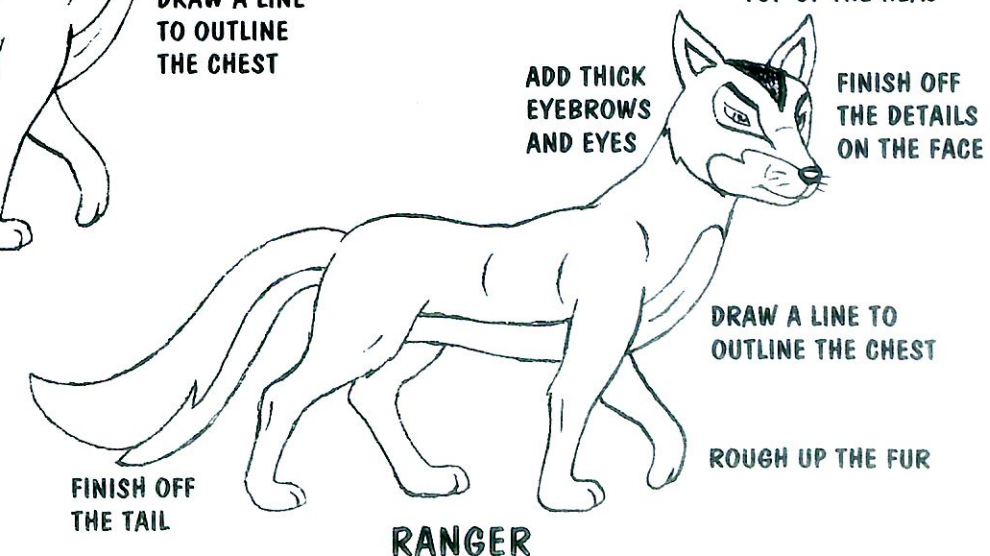
Drawing Charmer & Ranger

**BEFORE YOU START...
PRACTISE DRAWING
THESE SHAPES**

**CURVED LINES
AND CIRCLES**



**! DRAW YOUR LINES
LIGHTLY SO YOU
CAN RUB OUT
OVERLAPPING ONES**

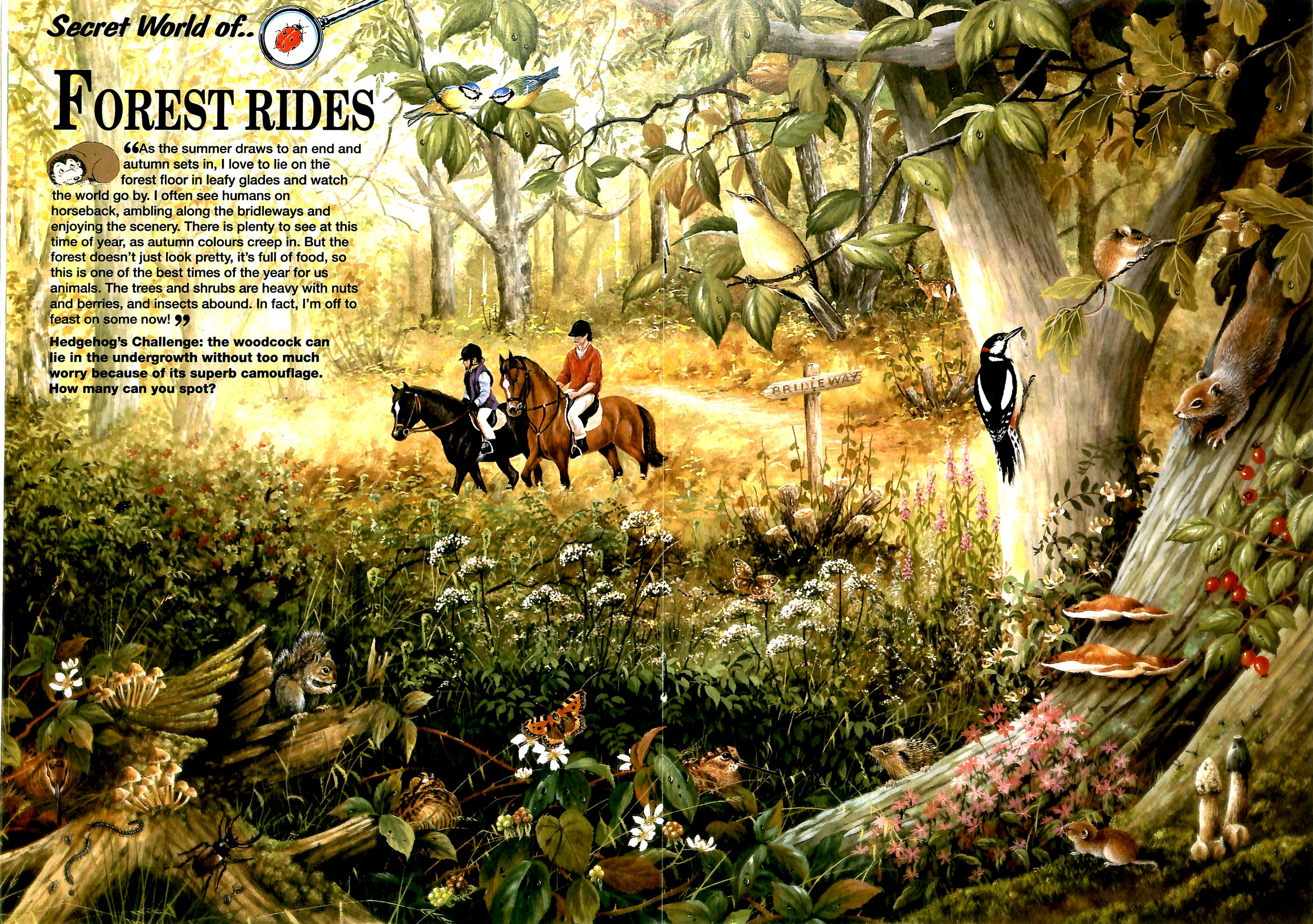


FOREST RIDES



“As the summer draws to an end and autumn sets in, I love to lie on the forest floor in leafy glades and watch the world go by. I often see humans on horseback, ambling along the bridleways and enjoying the scenery. There is plenty to see at this time of year, as autumn colours creep in. But the forest doesn't just look pretty, it's full of food, so this is one of the best times of the year for us animals. The trees and shrubs are heavy with nuts and berries, and insects abound. In fact, I'm off to feast on some now!”

Hedgehog's Challenge: the woodcock can lie in the undergrowth without too much worry because of its superb camouflage. How many can you spot?

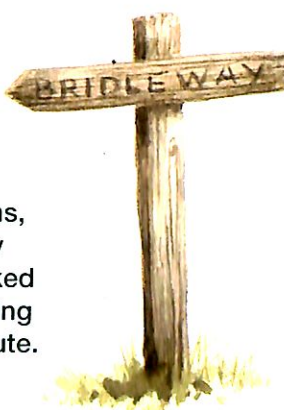




The **Woodcock** is perfectly camouflaged as it sits quietly among the leaves on the forest floor. Its large eyes are high up on its head, giving the bird all-round vision.



In autumn, black berries replace the sweet-smelling, creamy-white flowers of **Elder**. The flowers and berries can be used to make wine, jam and even tea.



Bridleways are cross-country routes suitable for pedestrians, cyclists and especially horses. They are marked with a signpost, showing the direction of the route.

There are three woodcocks hiding among the leaves on the forest floor.



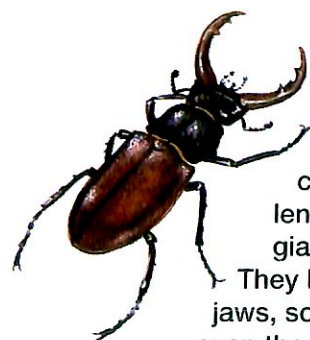
The **Yellow-necked mouse** is easily identified by the yellow collar round its throat. It comes out at night to forage for seeds and berries in the treetops and in the undergrowth.

The **Greater spotted woodpecker**

chisels into tree trunks searching for insects, which it licks out with its long, sticky tongue. It has no song, but its distinctive call is a rattling noise, made by pecking at dry wood. This warns other woodpeckers to keep out of its territory.



Honeysuckle flowers have a wonderful perfume, especially strong in the evening. This climbing plant twines its way round hornbeam and hazel. After flowering, tight clusters of red berries provide a feast for hungry birds.



Male Stag beetles can grow up to 8cm in length, making them the giants of British beetles. They have huge, antler-like jaws, so they look very fierce even though they're harmless. Females burrow into rotting tree stumps to lay their eggs, and the larvae live off the rotting wood.

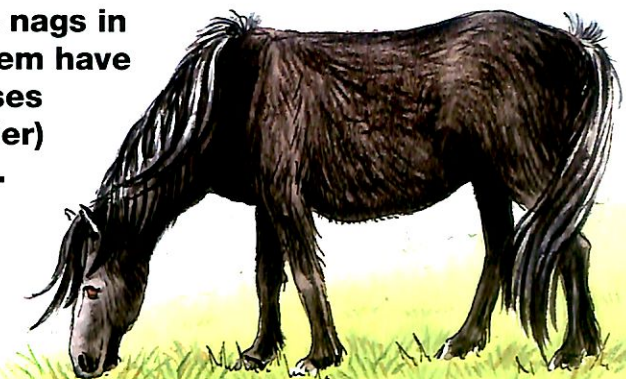


Even if you don't spot a **Stinkhorn fungus** growing close to the base of a tree, you can't miss its horrible smell! The tip of the fungus is covered with smelly slime, which flies love to feed on.



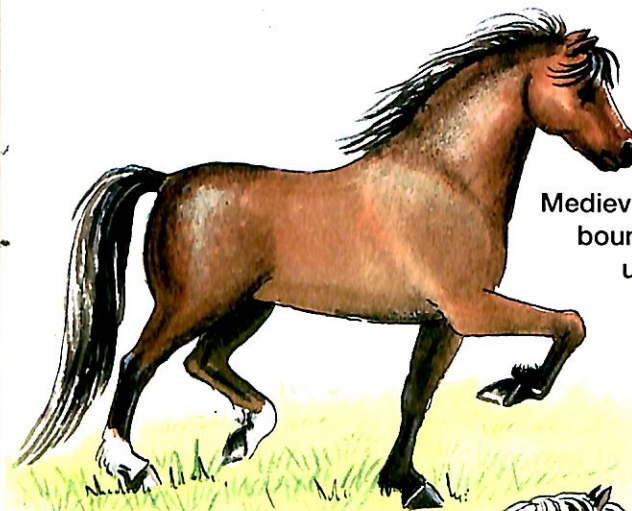
HORSEPOWER

There are nine different breeds of native nags in Great Britain and Ireland, and some of them have been around for thousands of years. We working horses grow up to 19 hands high (that's 193cm at the shoulder) but little Shetlands don't get much taller than 120cm.



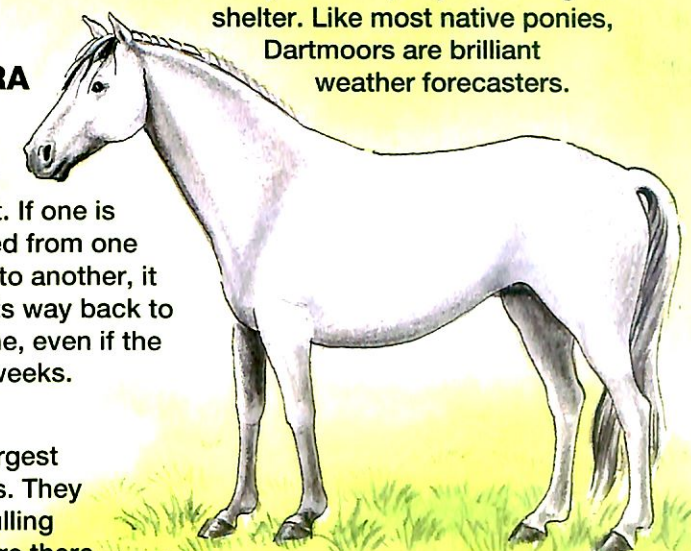
WELSH COB

These ponies have changed little since Medieval times. They have a bouncy trot and are often used for pulling traps.



DARTMOOR

If you see a restless Dartmoor pony galloping about, it may mean that a storm is on its way and the pony is looking for shelter. Like most native ponies, Dartmoors are brilliant weather forecasters.



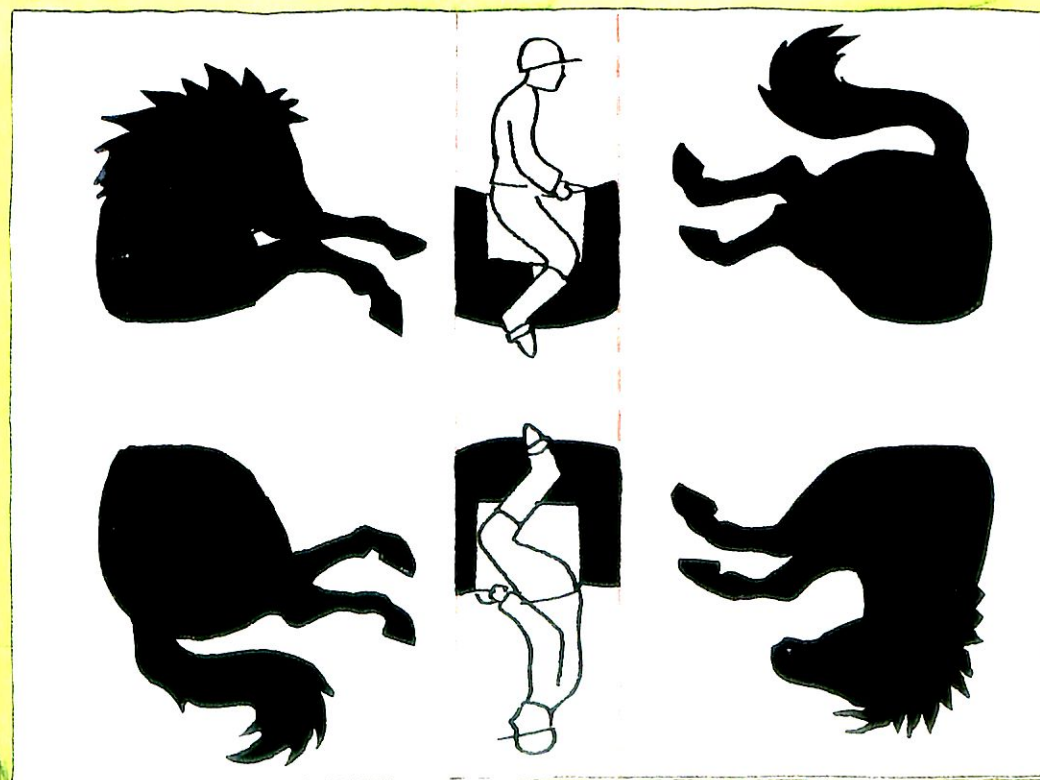
CONNEMARA

These gentle ponies are famed for their homing instinct. If one is sold, and moved from one area of Ireland to another, it will often find its way back to its original home, even if the journey takes weeks.



HIGHLAND

These Scottish ponies are the largest and heaviest of the British breeds. They are still used in some areas for pulling timber and other heavy work where there isn't enough room for a tractor.



HORSES AND JOCKEYS

This clever puzzle was invented by an American, Sam Lloyd, in the 1800s. Trace and then cut out the three templates. See if you can put the three oblongs together so that the two jockeys are riding the horses at a gallop.

Weasel's Easel

Horses like to sleep standing up because they feel safer. They lock their leg joints in position and just doze off.



Notable nags

LIFETIME OF SERVICE

The oldest-known horse died at the age of 62 in Lancashire, northern England. He spent his working life towing barges along canals, and retired to a farm at the age of 59.



What do you call a very clever mare?
An expert in her field.

UNLIKELY COUSINS

Horses belong to the same order (group) of animals as rhinos.



HOBBY HORSE

You might not have a big enough garden to keep a pony, but you can still have horse races with a hobby horse (and you won't have to pick up the droppings afterwards).

You will need:

old broom or mop, old stockings or tights, old newspapers, string, thin card, felt tips, needle and cotton, sticky tape.



1 Take an old stocking, or cut a leg off an old pair of tights. Stuff the stocking with old newspapers or magazines, trying to form it roughly into a horse's head shape.

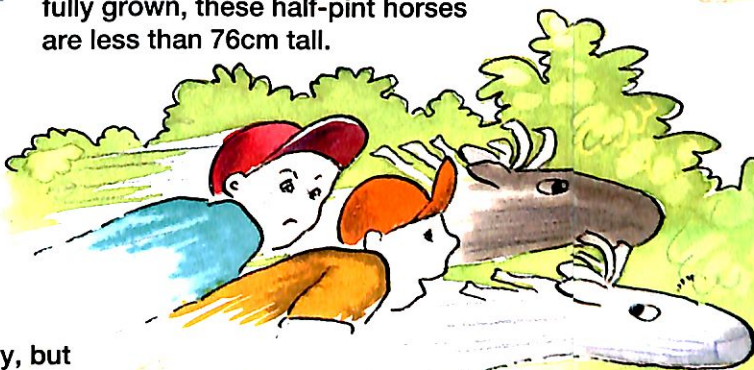
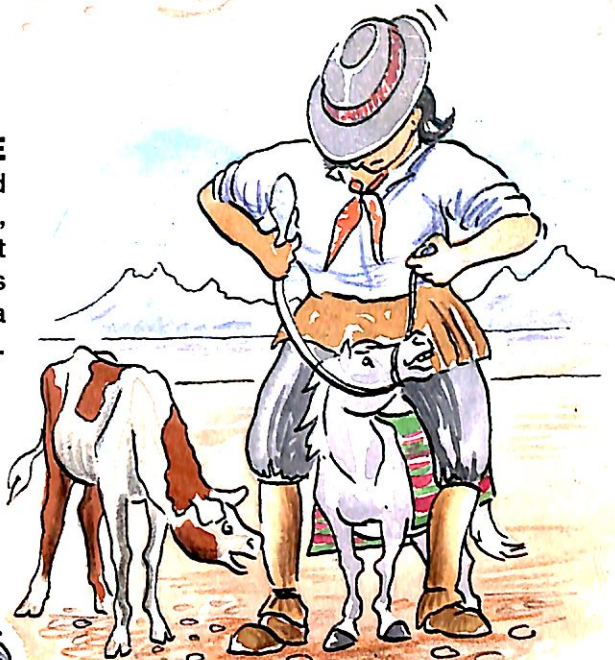
2 Put your horse's head on the top of an old broom or mop handle. Hold it in place by tying lots of string round.

3 Cut two eyes and two ears from some thin card. Colour them in with felt tips and sew them on to the head.

4 Cut strips of newspaper and sew them along your horse's neck to make a mane. Use some more string to make a pair of reins to control your dashing steed.

TINY TITCH

The smallest horses in the world are the Falabellas, from Argentina. When fully grown, these half-pint horses are less than 76cm tall.



TROTting POLES

Horse trainers use trotting poles when they are teaching a horse to jump. Use them in the garden to have a competition with your friends.

Lay six sticks on the ground, about 30cm apart. Take it in turns to 'trot' over the sticks without touching them.

The last person to go jumps as far as she can over the last stick and calls out a number from one to six as she lands. If she calls out two, for example, stick number two is moved to the place where she landed. This means that there is now a big space between sticks one and two, and a big space between sticks five and six.

Keep going like this, taking it in turns to be the last jumper. If you knock a stick, or can't jump far enough to get over one, you are out. Whoever's left at the end is the trotting pole champion!



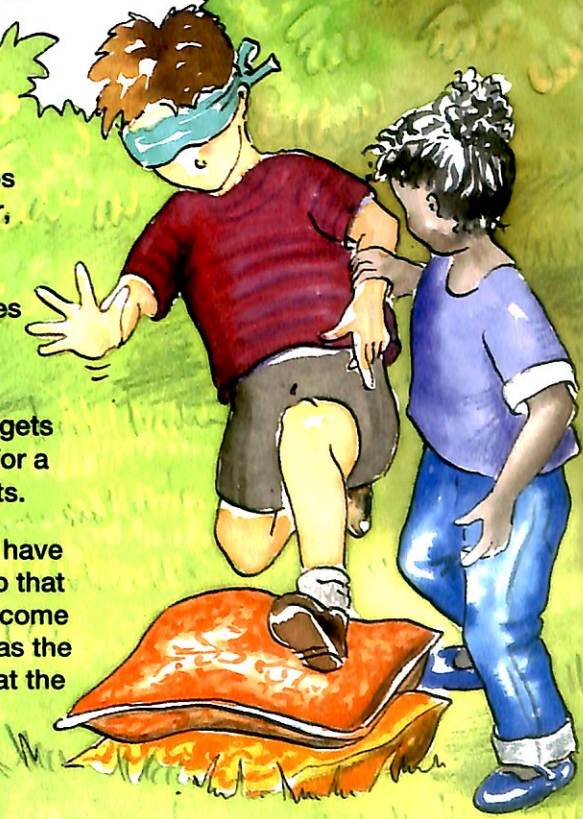
BLINDFOLD SNOWJUMPING

Build yourself a showjumping course in the garden, using mops on buckets, cardboard boxes, bricks, sacks stuffed with paper, or whatever else you can think of. Make sure you don't use anything that might hurt you, or break if someone knocks it.

Divide your friends into teams of horses and riders. The horses are blindfolded and led round the course by their riders, who must shout "jump!" at the right moment.

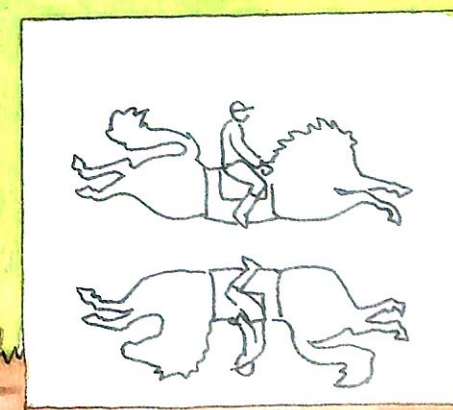
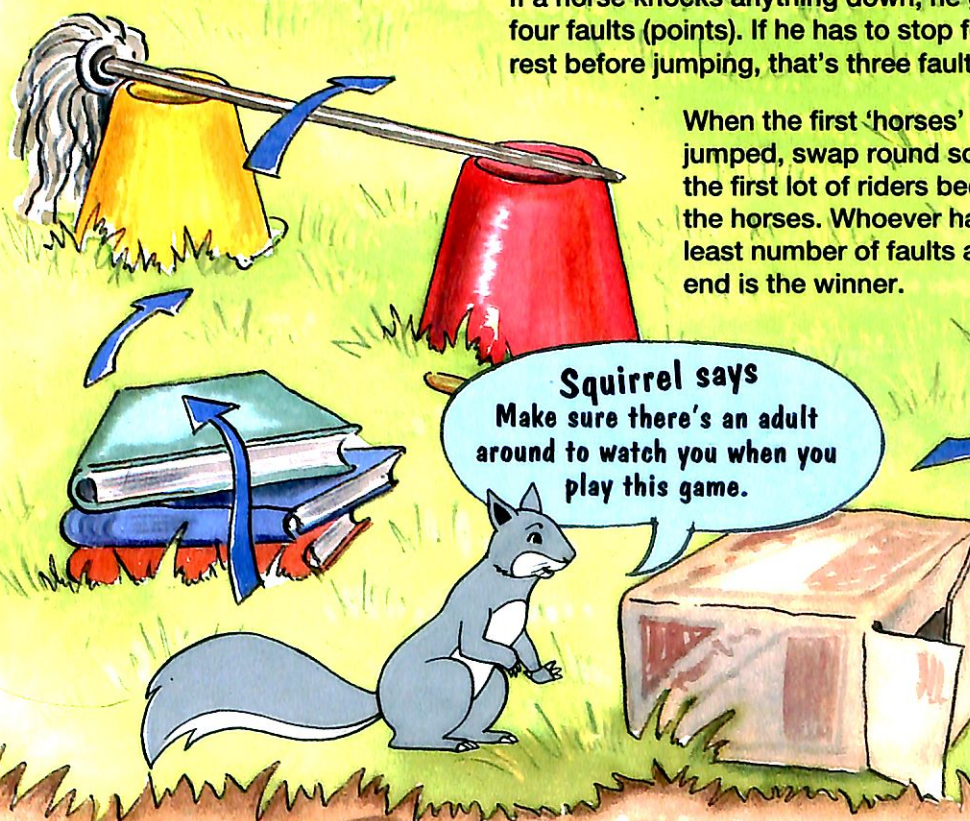
If a horse knocks anything down, he gets four faults (points). If he has to stop for a rest before jumping, that's three faults.

When the first 'horses' have jumped, swap round so that the first lot of riders become the horses. Whoever has the least number of faults at the end is the winner.



Squirrel says

Make sure there's an adult around to watch you when you play this game.



WORLD NEWS... WORLD NEWS... WORLD NEWS... WORLD NEWS...

Good Gracious it's a Goat!

Reporter Fox

News of a startling sighting has just been sent in by our African correspondent. "I was making my way to the local town when I spotted a large creature perched in the top of a tree. At first I thought I had stumbled upon a new type of huge bird, but as I got closer, I realized, to my amazement, that it was a goat!"

When asked what he was doing up there the goat replied, "There's really no need to be so surprised, we goats are extremely good at climbing trees. Our hooves can grasp branches, so, when we have munched through the lower leaves, we climb up into the tree to polish off the tasty shoots at the top." Well, he certainly seems to be enjoying the high life!



A Helping Hand for the Dormouse

Environment news by Hedgehog



We heard today how humans are coming to the aid of one of our woodland friends, the Dormouse, who lives in the topmost twigs of hazel coppices. These are formed when the trees are cut back at ground level. Coppicing was one of the traditional ways of looking after woodland for many years, until it went out of fashion. "That's when our habitat began to

disappear," said one local Dormouse. "Soon there were only a few of us left."

Just in time, coppicing is back, and the Dormouse's thicket home is being restored. Local woodsmen are giving an extra helping hand, building special twig 'bridges' for the dormice by training branches from thicket to thicket. Happily, numbers are now increasing.

NEW FLASH

Coming soon! 'Cooking With Worms' – special trial price offer of this remarkable recipe book.

ADDER'S ADS

Fashion and style advice. A personal consultation offered for a small fee, will show you how to improve your image. Contact Mr Pheasant, Box 42.

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NEXT WEEK: A case of mistaken identity – murder in the forest? Plus, the mystery of the disappearing blue objects.

TOAD'S

Today's top ten marine mammals are seldom seen, in fact, they are the rarest to be found. The numbers on the right show roughly how many are left in the world.

- | | | |
|----------|----------------------------|------|
| O | 1. Caribbean monk seal | 200 |
| P | 2. Mediterranean monk seal | 350 |
| | 3. Juan Fernandez fur seal | 750 |
| T | 4. West Indian manatee | 1000 |
| | 5. Guadeloupe fur seal | 1600 |
| | 6. New Zealand fur seal | 2000 |
| E | 7. Hooker's sea lion | 4000 |
| | 8. Right whale | 4400 |
| N | 9. Frazer's dolphin | 7800 |
| | 10. Amazon manatee | 8000 |

▼ You'd be lucky to spot a Mediterranean monk seal, as it is the second rarest marine mammal in the world.



THE IMPORTANCE OF MANNERS

Education by Owl



It is so important to teach children good manners. I have always been impressed by Mrs Rabbit's lovely children, but, unfortunately, the same cannot be said for South American Vicunas. These rude animals spit foul-smelling liquid and chewed up food at any creature who approaches. This may be a useful way of warding off attackers, but really isn't very pleasant for friendly strangers. No wonder they don't have many neighbours!

A Hat for All Seasons

Fashion by Pheasant

Hats are all the rage this season, particularly those that have a purpose. The prize for the most useful hat must go to the Cassowary. This bird has a built-in, horny helmet. "Well, my hat certainly makes life easier," said the Cassowary. "It's great when I'm rushing through the undergrowth; I just put my head down and clear the way with my helmet. It also comes in useful for turning over leaves to look for nice juicy insects." Fashion designers could certainly take a few tips from this bird.



ALL ABOUT SCHOOL

"I wonder what a school for humans is like," Bold said to himself. He was lying in Whisper's burrow in the churchyard and watching the schoolchildren at the nearby bus stop.

He put his head on his paws and remembered Owl trying to give the animals lessons. "What were the books I liked?" he wondered.

BOLD'S BOOKS

Bold muddled up all the book titles he tried to remember. Can you sort them out?



Bold remembered how Owl would take the Fox cubs for a walk, pointing out all the different types of flowers.

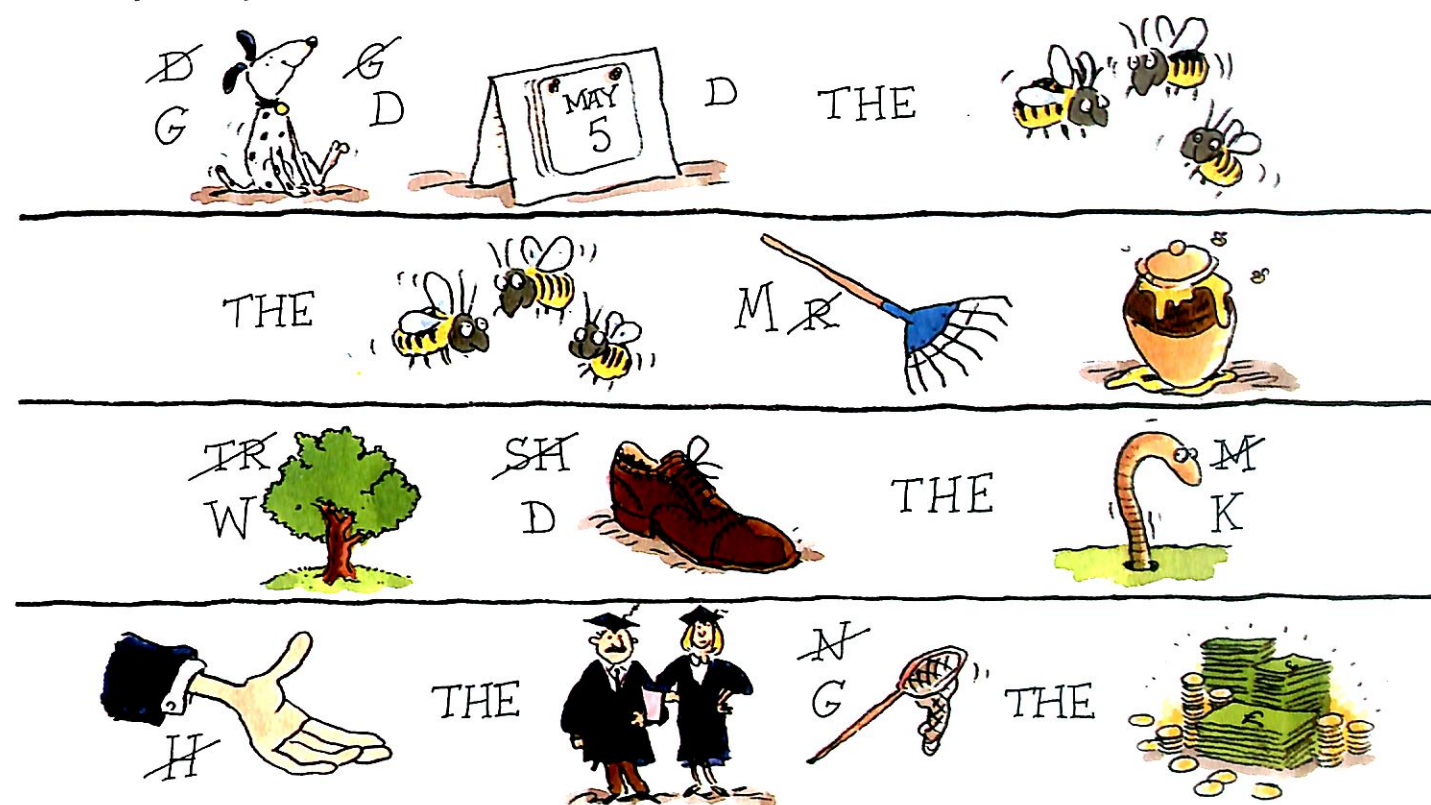
A NUMBER OF FLOWERS

Here is a patch of daisies, buttercups and bluebells growing together. How many of each flower can you count?

SCHOOL RHYME

This is what children sometimes sing at school. Do this picture puzzle to find out what it is.

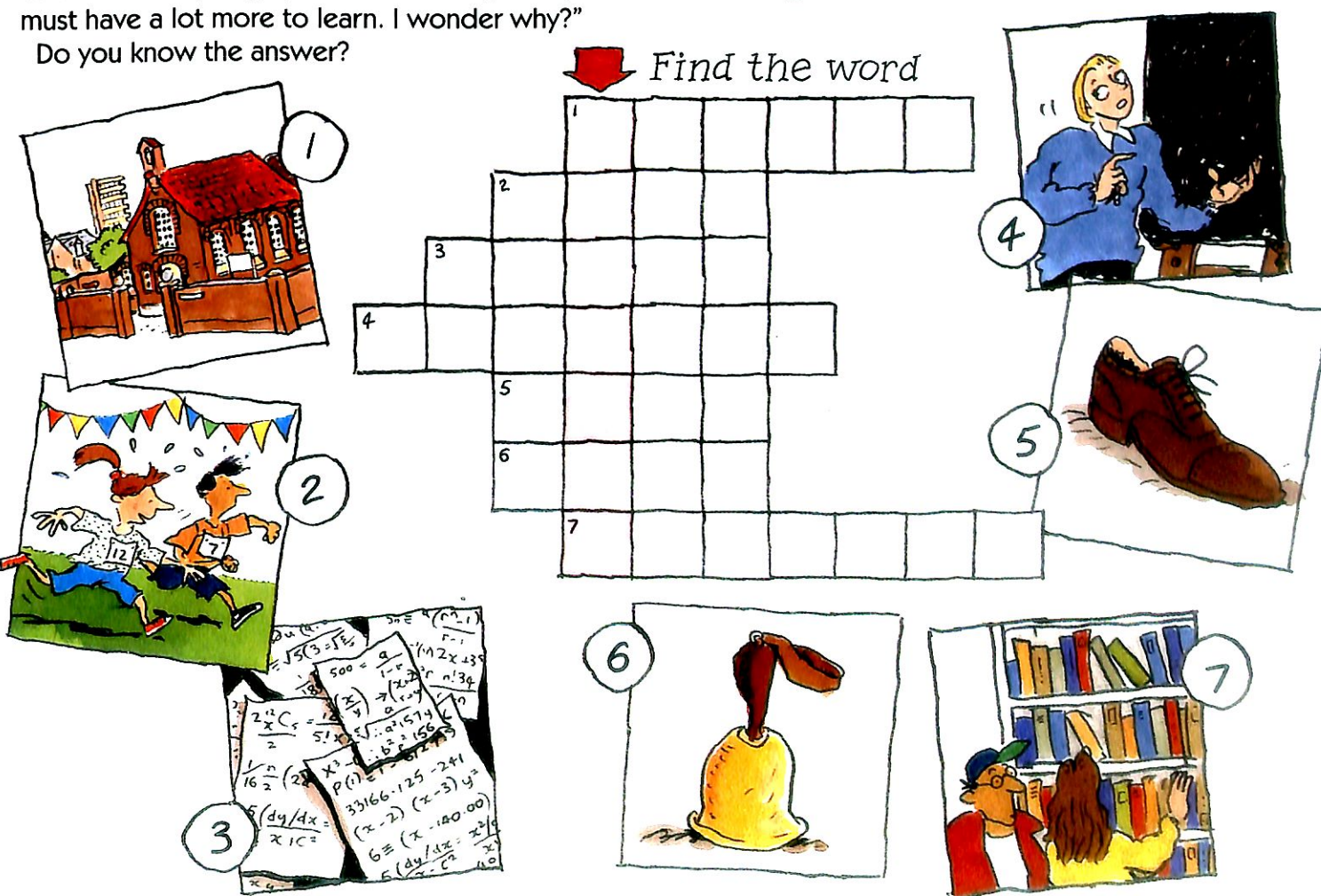
If you say the words out loud, changing the letters as shown, it will help.



"I'm sure some of the things we learnt were the same as humans," Bold thought to himself, "but we had school only from time to time. Humans go to school every day, apart from holidays. They must have a lot more to learn. I wonder why?"
Do you know the answer?

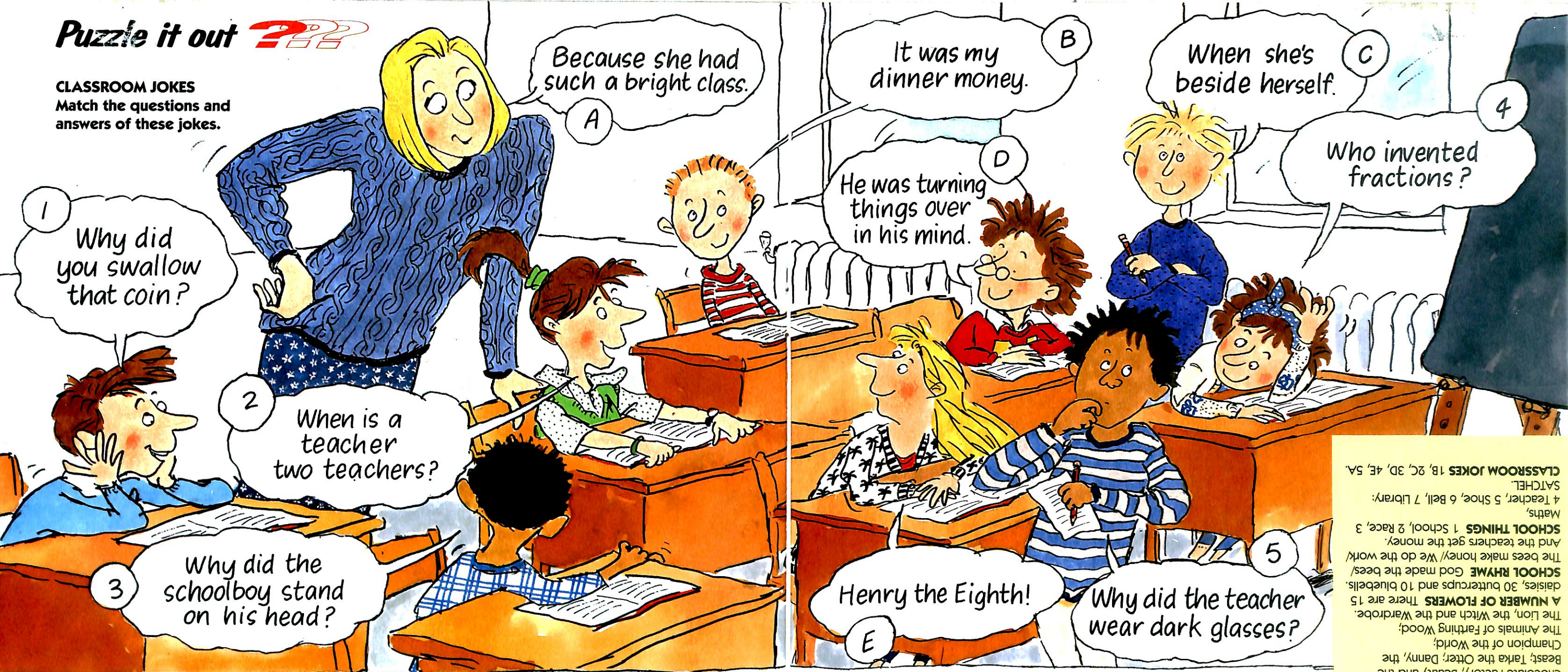
SCHOOL THINGS

Here are some things you find at school. Fit their names in the spaces below and find one more thing to do with school.



Puzzle it out ???

CLASSROOM JOKES
Match the questions and answers of these jokes.



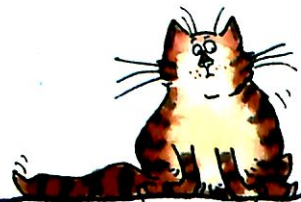
ANSWERS
BOLD'S BOOKS Charlie and the Chocolate Factory; Beauty and the Beast; Tarka the Otter; Danny, the Champion of the World; The Animals of Farthing Wood; The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe. There are 15 daisies, 30 buttercups and 10 bluebells. **SCHOOL RHYME** God made the bees/ The bees make honey/ We do the work/ And the teachers get the money. **SCHOOL THINGS** 1 School, 2 Race, 3 Maths, 4 Teacher, 5 Shoe, 6 Bell, 7 Library; SATCHEL. **CLASSROOM JOKES** 1B, 2C, 3D, 4E, 5A.

BALL AGAINST THE WALL

1 Throw and catch. Then ...

2 Throw, clap your hands and catch. Then ...

3 Throw, clap your hands in front and behind your back and catch. Then ...



If you have a wall in the playground, you can play this game. If you haven't, try playing it by throwing to a friend.

4 Throw, spin round once and catch. Then ...

5 Throw, let the ball bounce under your lifted leg and catch. Then ...

6 Stand on one leg and repeat!



Colour it in 

A TRIP INTO TOWN

